

## Message Text

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ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 CIAE-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 7946

C O N F I D E N T I A L MEXICO 6876

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (PARA 4)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT/CI/MX

SUBJECT: CONTINUING MEXICAN REACTION TO CHILEAN COUP

REF: MEXICO 6831

1. SUMMARY: MEXICAN GOVERNMENT AND PUBLIC CONTINUES TO MANIFEST STRONG SYMPATHY FOR EX-PRESIDENT ALLENDE, SKEPTICISM ABOUT THE MANNER IN WHICH HE DIED AND DISAPPROVAL OF JUNTA. PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS DECLARED 3-DAY PERIOD OF MOURNING SEPTEMBER 17-19. ACTION REQUESTED: DEPARTMENT PASS SANTIAGO AS DESIRED. END SUMMARY.

2. SEPTEMBER 13 MEXICO CITY PRESS GAVE VOLUMINOUS AND OFTEN NEARLY HYSTERICALLY NEGATIVE COVERAGE TO EVENTS IN CHILE. ALTHOUGH SOME ITEMS DEVOTED TO SKETCHY ACCOUNTS OF WHAT IS TAKING PLACE THERE, MORE SPACE DEVOTED TO PRO-ALLENDE COMMENTS AND EDITORIALIZING.

3. IN AN EXTRAORDINARY DECREE IN WHICH HE, INTER ALIA, NOTED ALLENDE'S CLOSE AND CONSISTENT EVIDENCES OF FRIENDSHIP FOR GOM AND FACT THAT LATE CHILEAN PRESIDENT HAD BEEN FIRST  
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TO ENDORSE HIS PROPOSED CHARTER FOR ECONOMIC RIGHTS AND DUTIES, PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA HAS DECLARED 3-DAY PERIOD OF

OFFICIAL MOURNING TO BEGIN SEPT. 17 (AFTER MEXICAN INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATIONS). TEXT OF DECREE BEING POUCHED TO ARA/MEX.

4. AS ANTICIPATED, GOM PERMITTED PRO-ALLENDE DEMONSTRATION TO BE HELD LATE AFTERNOON SEPTEMBER 12. ACCORDING TO ACCOUNT IN EXCELSIOR, SOME 5000 PERSONS ATTENDED. (ACCORDING TO LEFTIST SOURCE WHO ATTENDED RALLY, ATTENDANCE WAS ABOUT 3000--SOMEWHAT DISAPPOINTING AND BELOW ANTICIPATED TURNOUT.) AMONG THOSE ADDRESSING ASSEMBLY WAS PCM FIRST SECRETARY ARNALDO MARTINEZ VERDUGO WHO CALLED ON GOM TO DEMAND IMMEDIATE REPAYMENT FOR RECENT LOANS GRANTED TO CHILE IN CONNECTION WITH SALE OF POL ITEMS. ORGANIZERS OF THIS RALLY (SOCIALIST LABOR PARTY -- PST) ANNOUNCED THAT A DEMONSTRATION WILL BE SCHEDULED FOR SEPTEMBER 14 BEGINNING AT 4:00 AND MOVING FROM THE DIANA PAST THE US EMBASSY AND TO THE ALAMEDA. ANOTHER SPEAKER AT THE RALLY CALLED ON GOM TO APPLY THE "CARDENAS DOCTRINE" WHICH HE IDENTIFIED AS THE ABERRATION TO MEXICO'S WELL-KNOWN ESTRADA DOCTRINE UNDER WHICH MEXICAN RECOGNITION HAS BEEN DENIED TO THE FRANCO REGIME.

5. PRESS ALSO REPORTED A "MINI-COUP" WITHIN LOCAL CHILEAN EMBASSY. MILITARY ATTACHE, COL. AGUSTIN TORO DAVILA ALLEGEDLY LOST OUT TO AMBASSADOR HUGO VIGORENO RAMIREZ IN A DISPUTE WHETHER OR NOT TO HALF-MAST FLAG. VIGORENO (WHO ALREADY HAS ANNOUNCED THAT HE WILL RESIGN HIS POST) EVIDENTLY WON OUT AND LOCAL EMBASSY (WHICH ADMITS TO FACT THAT IT HAS HAD NO DIRECT CONTACT WITH SANTIAGO) IS MAINTAINING ATTITUDE OF OFFICIAL MOURNING.

6. SEPTEMBER 13 AP STORY DATED MEXICO CITY REPORT THAT ALLENDE'S WIDOW, TWO DAUGHTERS, AND FOUR GRANDCHILDREN ARE AMONG THOSE WHO HAVE ACCEPTED OFFER OF ASYLUM IN MEXICAN EMBASSY SANTIAGO. OTHER REPORTS STATED THAT LATE PRESIDENT'S SISTER, LAURA ALLENDE, IS ALSO AN ASYLEE. AP STATES THAT PRESIDENT ECHEVERRIA IS DESPATCHING AEROMEXICO DC-9 TO SANTIAGO TO PICK UP MRS. ALLENDE AND OTHER ASYLEES WHO "SURELY WILL REACH MEXICO CITY BY TOMORROW NIGHT (SEPT. 14)".

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7. COMMENT: GOM'S OFFICIAL ATTITUDE HAS RESULTED IN CERTAIN ACTS WHICH BEAR THE SEEDS FOR FUTURE EMBARRASSMENT, E.G. GRANTING PUBLIC FORUM TO PERSONALITY SUCH AS MARTINEZ VERDUGO WHO NORMALLY IS FORCED TO OPERATE IN A MUCH MORE CIRCUMSPECT MANNER. LIKEWISE, THE ACTS SUCH AS DECLARATION OF OFFICIAL MOURNING WILL MAKE IT EXTREMELY DIFFICULT, IF NOT IMPOSSIBLE, FOR ECHEVERRIA ADMINISTRATION TO ESTABLISH ANY SORT OF SATISFACTORY RELATIONS WITH NEW CHILEAN REGIME. LATTER POINT IS OF SOME POLITICAL

INTEREST, BUT OF LIMITED PRACTICAL EFFECT SINCE IMPORTANCE  
OF RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES DURING LAST THREE YEARS  
HAS BEEN SOMEWHAT FORCED AND RELATED ALMOST EXCLUSIVELY  
TO THE PERSONAL EMPATHY FELT BY ECHEVERRIA FOR THE CHILEANS  
(STEMMING FROM HIS STUDENT DAYS THERE) AND HIS CLOSE  
FRIENDSHIP AND ADMIRATION OF ALLENDE.  
DEAN

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